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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TAIPEI 001706

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USTR FOR SCOTT KI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/09/2025
TAGS: [ETTC](#) [PARM](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [TW](#)
SUBJECT: TAIWAN RESPONSE TO EXPORT CONTROL DEMARCHE

REF: STATE 60730

Classified By: AIT ACTING DIRECTOR DAVID J. KEEGAN, REASON 1.5 B/D

¶11. (C) Summary: AIT/T Acting Director Keegan delivered reftel demarche to Minister of Foreign Affairs Mark Chen and to Minister of Economic Affairs Ho Mei-yueh in separate meetings on April 7. Both Ministers expressed Taiwan's strong commitment to strengthen Taiwan's export controls. Minister Mark Chen said he would personally relay the non-paper and points directly to President Chen Shui-bian during their flight to Rome that afternoon. End summary.

Shared Values

¶12. (C) Foreign Minister Mark Chen expressed his appreciation for U.S. efforts to advance democracy and human rights, noting that Taiwan and the United States shared these values. ADIR Keegan noted the seriousness of the export control issue to the U.S. Government, that Dr. David Asher had visited Taiwan three times in the past two years to convey the importance of this issue, that the AIT Director had raised the issue with the Taiwan Premier and President, and that AIT has held numerous meetings with the National Security Council (NSC), National Security Bureau (NSB), Bureau of Foreign Trade. (BOFT), and other agencies in which we have urged a strengthening of Taiwan's export control system.

Your Concerns Are Our Concerns

¶13. (C) Minister Chen responded that as a result of his time as a Chair of the Legislative Yuan Science and Technology Committee, he knew of the security threat proliferation posed to Taiwan, neighboring countries, and the entire world. He said the Taiwan government took export controls very seriously and had held high-level discussions on this matter. Chen added that he understood how important it was to cooperate with the U.S. on this, and he completely understood the U.S. concerns. He noted that the seven point statement that President Chen issued two days ago had a message between the lines that national security problems could be created by commercial interests in China. Minister Chen said "your concerns are also our concerns" unfortunately, due to the political environment and necessary (democratic) procedures, the Chen administration had found it hard to get all the results it wanted, but it was still proceeding along towards these goals.

Thanks for Support on Maintaining Arms Embargo

¶14. (C) Minister Chen said Taiwan had deeply appreciated Deputy Secretary Zoellick's recent remarks against the EU lifting the embargo on weapon sales to China. He said he would personally bring the export control non-paper (reftel) to the President Chen's attention and discuss the issue with him during their 15-18 hour charter flight to Vatican City departing Taiwan in the afternoon. He said everyone agrees Taiwan's export controls need to be stronger. But there were differences of opinion on how to proceed, how to best achieve stricter controls. Chen said Taiwan had no argument with the principle message of the demarche. He agreed the United States and Taiwan must work together to give the younger generation a secure world. He noted that Taiwan had helped the U.S. in Afghanistan and Iraq. He said that the challenge was how to achieve strict export controls in a "beautiful, efficient way." Chen summed up by noting that "There is no good reason for us not to commit to strict export control enforcement, it is good for the United States and good for Taiwan."

¶15. (C) ADIR Keegan urged Minister Chen to ask why Taiwan needed to trade anything with North Korea and noted that virtually all export to North Korea were for military use. Chen responded to AIT comments regarding shortcomings of the Technology Protection Law now being considered by the legislature by asking if the United States could help Taiwan fix the flaws in the law by providing a model law on which

to base their draft law.

Ministry of Economic Affairs Will Make Full Effort

16. (C) Minister of Economic Affairs Ho Mei-yueh told the ADIR that her minister was fully committed to establishing effective controls over Taiwan exports. She outlined several steps that Taiwan would take to tighten export controls (sent separately via email to EAP/TC), beginning with a requirement for pre-shipment checks and licenses for sensitive technologies going to sensitive countries. However, she indicated her ministry would like U.S. help in end-user verification and would like to establish a system for information sharing so that when Taiwan authorities detect suspicious export activities they could pass the information on to the United States for further offshore investigation.

17. (C) Minister Ho emphasized in closing that President Chen, the Foreign Minister and she all shared a determination to resolve the problems posed by the export of machine tools to North Korea, China and other countries of concern. Her obligation, and that of her ministry, was to implement that commitment. She said they would work closely with the United States to make that happen.

KEEGAN